

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 AGR-20 EB-11 TRSE-00

OMB-01 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 SCI-06 IO-13 COME-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /195 W

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R 131355Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8878

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1129

NOFORN

FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : OVIP (NEWSOM, DAVID D.) PFOR US GV

SUBJECT : GUINEA, 1973

REF: CONAKRY 1127

CONAKRY 1128

1. FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS FLOW FROM VISIT GUINEA JULY 9-13.
VISIT INCLUDED TWO LONG MEETINGS AND TWO MEALS WITH PRESI-
DENT SEKOU TOURE AND TWO-DAY TOUR AT BAUXITE INSTALLATIONS
WITH PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI AND OTHER MINISTERS.

2. SPECIAL EFFORT OBVIOUSLY MADE TO SHOW US AN OPEN DOOR.
MONROVIA DEFENSE ATTACHE PERMITTED LAND HERE FOR FIRST TIME
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IN RECENT MEMORY AND HE AND ASSISTANT MADE PART OF MY OFFICIAL

PARTY. RARE FAVORABLE LOCAL MENTION OF RELATIONS WITH U.S. CARRIED ON NATIONAL RADIO. TOURE IN CONVERSATIONS STRESSED KEY ROLE USG AND U.S. PRIVATE ENTERPRISE IN DEVELOPMENT OF GUINEA.

3. GUINEA TODAY PRESENTS ASTONISHING AND DEPRESSING PICTURE OF FAILURE OF TOURE'S REGIMENTED SOCIALIST APPROACH. COMPARED TO VIBRANT TRAFFIC AND MARKET LIFE OF OTHER AFRICAN CITIES AND COUNTRYSIDE, GUINEA IS DEAD. SHOPS ARE EMPTY. EVERYWHERE IS EVIDENCE OF BREAKDOWN, EXCEPT IN WELL-RUN BAUXITE INDUSTRY; IN ABSENCE FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND SPARE PARTS, ONLY GUINEAN INGENUITY KEEPS ANCIENT MACHINES RUNNING.

4. SEKOU TOURE, CHARISMATIC, DEEPLY VULNERABLE TO SUSPICION, HIS OUTLOOK STILL SHAPED BY FRENCH PULLOUT, PAIGC STRUGGLE AND PORTUGUESE INVASION, ADMITS FAILURE. STILL CONVINCED HIS SYSTEM OF EXHORTATION CONTROL MUST PREVAIL, HOWEVER, HE LESS WILLING TO ADMIT REASONS.

5. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT GUINEA SHOULD BE FOOD EXPORTER, NOT IMPORTER, HE HAS NOW TURNED TO US FOR SUBSTANTIAL HELP IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. AMBASSADOR TODMAN WILL BRING DETAILS TO WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK FOR OUR FURTHER STUDY.

6. IN FRANK CONVERSATIONS WE EXPLAINED LIMITATIONS OUR ABILITY HELP. ANY HELP COULD ONLY COME, HOWEVER, IF THERE WERE CONFIDENCE IN USG AND USG (INCLUDING CIA) NON-INVOLVEMENT IN GUINEA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HISTORY OF U.S. EXPERTS IN GUINEA HAD NOT BEEN ENCOURAGING HERETOFORE.

7. WE WILL WANT, IN LIGHT THIS APPROACH, ASSESS OUR FUTURE POLICY TOWARD GUINEA. UNDER BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES IT WILL NOT BE EASY WORK WITH GUINEANS. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, SUBSTANTIAL USG AND PRIVATE U.S. STAKE HERE. WE MAY ALSO HAVE OPPORTUNITY DEVELOP GOOD RESOURCES IN COUNTRY OF RICH POTENTIAL AND DEMONSTRATE ALTERNATIVES TO CURRENT DOCTRINAIRE GUINEAN APPROACH TO ALL PROBLEMS.
TODMAN

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